

Seminar by Professor Fred Wegman, SWOV Netherlands

DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL ENGINEERING & INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORT STUDIES
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG AND HONG KONG SOCIETY FOR TRANSPORTATION
STUDIES
SEMINAR

Towards a next generation of road safety interventions

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Date: November 19, 2012 (Monday)

Time: 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Venue: Room 612B, Haking Wong Building, The University of Hong Kong

ABSTRACT

The mortality rate in the Netherlands is one of the lowest in the world. The Dutch mortality rate has been decreasing over the last few decades and we have strong indications that the implementations of road safety strategies contributed to this positive trend. Many well-known problems have been dealt with (risk increasing factors such as speeding, drinking and driving, not using safety devices such as seat belts and crash helmets, etc.), often using rather well-known measures from the fields of engineering, enforcement, and education. However, the Netherlands is not yet satisfied with today's road safety level. It has been decided to strive for a further reduction of fatalities and serious injuries in road traffic. A quantitative target has been set for 2020. Analysis of past road safety trends resulted in the conclusion that the more traditional road safety measures have reached the end of their life-cycle: they have become less and less effective and efficient. We decided on a paradigm shift and the new paradigm is called Sustainable Safety; an example of the so-called Safe System Approach. This new approach allows us to think about a new generation of road safety interventions. The paradigm shift was accepted by the road safety community and decision makers and has resulted in the adoption of a new road safety strategy in the Netherlands. First results of the implementation of this new strategy will be presented.

ABOUT THE SPEAKER

Professor Fred Wegman has extensive experience of research and advisory work on road safety in the Netherlands and European Commission. He gained an MSc from Delft University of Technology in 1972. In 1977, he joined SWOV Institute for Road Safety Research and since April 1999 has been its managing director. Since January 2009, he has been appointed as part-time professor of Road Safety at the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Geosciences of the Delft University of Technology. He is currently the advisor of the Dutch Ministry of Transport, advisor to the Dutch Parliament, and member of the National Advisory Board on Road Transport in the Netherlands. Besides, he was the chairman of OECD scientific expert group Targeted Road Safety Programme, ETSC working party on Road Safety Performance Indicators, the SUNflowerNext project, and the International Traffic Safety Data and Analysis Group (IRTAD). He has also provided inputs to road safety programmes, projects and research in Australia, Colombia, Israel, New Zealand, Nigeria, and South Africa. He is the associate editor of Safety Science, and the co-editor of Advancing Sustainable Safety and National Road Safety Outlook for 2005-2020.